

VZCZCXRO5027
PP RUEHDBU RUEHLH RUEHPW
DE RUEHIL #1833 1141311
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241311Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8672
INFO RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2299
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0123
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4162
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1283
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2051
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7050
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 8191
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0816
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3032
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 5728
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2128
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0432
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2218
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 001833

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2017

TAGS: [PK](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: CHIEF JUSTICE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES: APRIL 24
PROTESTS

REF: A. ISLAMABAD 1783

[1](#)B. AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: CDA Peter W. Bodde, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Coinciding with the Supreme Judicial Council and Supreme Court hearings in Islamabad, demonstrations occurred around Pakistan on April 24. In a manner that has become routine since the Chief Justice controversy began in March, police established road blocks and barriers on all major avenues around the Supreme Court. In a new development, the protests in Islamabad involved over 1000 pro-government participants from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q, many bused in from other cities in Punjab. The pro-government protestors were led by PML President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and other party notables. The overall numbers of protestors in Islamabad increased over last week, to approximately 7000 people. All major opposition parties took part, with the MMA, PPP, and PML-N drawing crowds of supporters and top party officials. Due to the growing heat in the capital, most protestors dispersed by 2 pm. The demonstrations were generally peaceful, with only a small skirmish between 20-30 pro-government and pro-Chief Justice protestors. (Note. The police kept pro- and anti-government protestors separated by barriers and had them march on separate streets. End Note.)

[1](#)2. (C) Protests also took place in various cities around Pakistan.

--Protests in Lahore ended earlier than expected and were smaller than in the past, numbering only 1000 people. The MMA and PML-N were the main protestors in Lahore, with the PPP sending only token representation.

--In Karachi, lawyers led a march to the Sindh High Court and were joined by representatives of all major opposition parties. The 2000 - 2500 protestors were peaceful and well organized.

-- In Peshawar, lawyers staged a complete strike, refusing to attend court proceedings. A sizeable protest took place in Peshawar on Saturday, April 21, when the Chief Justice, his legal team, and thousands of supporters rallied at the NWFP High Court.

BODDE